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**Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance**

## Letter dated 5 October 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Kyrgyzstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a decision by the Heads of State of the member States of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) on the occasion of the seventieth anniversary of the completion of the Nuremberg Tribunal's work, signed on 16 September 2016 in Bishkek, during the summit of CIS countries (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 66.

(*Signed*) Mirgul **Moldoisaeva**
Permanent Representative of the Kyrgyz Republic
to the United Nations

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## Annex to the letter dated 5 October 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Kyrgyzstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Bishkek

## Decision of the Council of Heads of State of the Commonwealth of Independent States concerning the Declaration by the Heads of State of the member States of the Commonwealth on the occasion of the seventieth anniversary of the completion of the Nuremberg Tribunal's work

*The Council of Heads of State of the Commonwealth of Independent States has decided*:

1. To adopt the Declaration by the Heads of State of the member States of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) on the occasion of the seventieth anniversary of the completion of the Nuremberg Tribunal's work (see enclosure).

2. To entrust the Kyrgyz Republic, as the State holding the CIS presidency, with circulating the aforementioned statement at the United Nations and other international organizations.

On behalf of the Kyrgyz Republic
(*Signed*)

On behalf of the Republic of Armenia
(*Signed*)

On behalf of the Republic of Azerbaijan
(*Signed*)

On behalf of the Republic of Belarus
(*Signed*)

On behalf of the Republic of Kazakhstan
(*Signed*)

On behalf of the Republic of Moldova
(*Signed*)

On behalf of the Republic of Tajikistan
(*Signed*)

On behalf of the Republic of Uzbekistan
(*Signed*)

On behalf of the Russian Federation
(*Signed*)

On behalf of Turkmenistan
–

On behalf of Ukraine
–

## Enclosure

## Declaration by the Heads of State of the member States of the Commonwealth of Independent States on the occasion of the seventieth anniversary of the completion of the Nuremberg Tribunal's work

*We, the Heads of State of the member States of the Commonwealth of Independent States hereby adopt this statement*,

*Noting* the importance of the historical lessons drawn from the unprecedented tragic events following the sweeping spread of the ideology of Nazism,

*Bearing in mind* that the victory of the anti-Hitlerite coalition in the Second World War created the conditions for an international security system designed to save future generations from war,

*Acknowledging* the progress made since the Second World War in international and regional cooperation, particularly within the framework of the United Nations,

*Stressing* the need for States to comply with United Nations Security Council resolutions concerning the maintenance of international peace and security,

*Declare that*:

In 2016, the world marks seventy years since the completion of the International Military Tribunal's work and the sentencing of the major Nazi criminals. The Nuremberg trial — the largest and most significant in the history of human civilization — consolidated the outcome of the Second World War and played a vital role in the progressive development of contemporary international law.

Leading members of the anti-Hitlerite coalition who had made a significant contribution to the rout of fascism participated in the Tribunal's work. For the first time in history, those responsible for causing the Second World War and deaths of tens of millions of people were sentenced for war crimes and crimes against peace and humanity, a just verdict that was endorsed by the entire international community.

The most important international legal norms in the world today are a direct legacy of Nuremberg. These continue to shape the development of sectors of international criminal law and international humanitarian law. They underpin legal instruments covering the most serious international crimes — war crimes, genocide, crimes against humanity — and determining the elements of the crime of aggression.

The Heads of State recognize that the Nuremberg Tribunal was clearly the major political and legal achievement of its era. A key factor in its success was the consensus of States at its establishment, during its work and in assessing its results.

The Heads of States emphasize that, in accordance with the experience of Nuremberg, fair international justice should be the outcome of collective efforts, be based on strict compliance with the norms of international law, be impartial and enjoy credibility among the international community.

The Heads of State note that the anniversary of the Nuremberg trial is significant in the context of countering attempts to rewrite the history of the Second World War. It is important not to allow the history of Nuremberg to be manipulated against those who liberated Europe from fascism and thereby laid the foundations for the modern system of international relations and international law.

The Heads of State call for countering such dangerous trends as the falsification and revision of history and, in effect, the negation of the Nuremberg Tribunal.